Assembly Line Design

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Part I: Overview of Business

- Rockwell Collins - Manchester Branch
- Founded in 1933 as Collins Radio, today, Rockwell Collins, Inc. designs, produces, markets and supports electronic communications, avionics and in-flight entertainment systems for commercial, military and government customers worldwide.
- Headquarters is located in Cedar Rapids, IA with 30,000 employees working in 150 countries.
- Iowa Locations include: Bellevue, Cedar Rapids, Coralville, Decorah, and Manchester.
- Rockwell Collins in Manchester, Iowa opened January 10, 1977. It is known as the Active Matrix Liquid Crystal Display (AMLCD) Center of Excellence. AMLCDs are used in a host of display products across both commercial and military market segments.

Part II: Job Specifics

- My main project was to assist with the transition of one step of the manufacturing process.
- This step had recently been centralized to one location from multiple smaller locations.
- My job was to help create an efficient process for this new centralized location and monitor and organize the upcoming workload to keep the process running efficiently.

Part III: Introduce the Problem

- You are designing an assembly line to manufacture a wooden box for your autonoma toy.
- How can you maximize production and eliminate waste?
- What steps can you layout to assure the process continues to flow?
- What will your plan be if a certain part(s) are unavailable?

Part IV: Background

- The sides of the box are precut.
- The basics of designing an assembly line.
- There is not a limit on the number of operators on the assembly line.
- There is a limit on space to operate in.
- Cost needs to be a factor in your decision making.
- What agreed upon quality standards the finish product will meet.

Part V: Business Solution

- They have been working with operators to modify the work instructions.
- They also used an excel tool to analyze data and help monitor operators production.
- Once they have the operator production data, in addition to the timing of each step of the manufacturing process, the company is able to use a mathematical model to help determine staffing.
- There are also cost analysis models that are run and discussed to help make decisions about how the process should run.

Part VI: Student Solutions

- Fast process that may not be high enough quality.
- Manufacturing processes that create bottlenecks.
- They may also go with their first idea rather than analyzing the flow of the assembly line.